

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247216

13

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-04 OES-02 RSC-01 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:BBMORTON/BK

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS

CAGNE:MSMITH

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R 082331Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, IR

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF ERTS GROUND STATION

1. BENDIX INTERNATIONAL INFORMS THAT GOI REQUESTED IT TO BUILD ERTS GROUND STATION IN IRAN AND SET TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO PUT STATION INTO OPERATION BEFORE ONE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ITALY. TO EXPEDITE PROJECT BENDIX BEGAN ORDERING COMPONENTS ON BASIS OF INFORMAL LETTER OF INTENT GIVEN TO VICE PRESIDENT SPENCER ROSS, PRESUMABLY BY PLAN ORG., WITH UNDERSTANDING DETAILED CONTRACT TO BE WORKED OUT. IN LAST FEW DAYS BENDIX HAS RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ROSS SAYING IN GUARDED LANGUAGE TO STOP ORDERING EQUIPMENT AND INDICATING PROJECT IN DOUBT. THERE WAS SOME IMPLICATION IN CALLS THAT USG RELUCTANT TO APPROVE EXPORT OF NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, BUT WE HAVE ASSURED BENDIX WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY PROBLEM AND WANT TO SEE PROJECT GO FORWARD ON SCHEDULE.

2. BENDIX IS CONCERNED WHETHER IN ABSENCE SIGNED CONTRACT GOI HAS DECIDED TO SWITCH PROJECT TO U.S. OR FOREIGN COMPETITOR, WHICH WOULD COST BENDIX BOTH 4 MILLION DOLS PROJECT AND SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS IT HAS COMMITTED TO COMPONENT PURCHASES. APPRECIATE ANYTHING EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON THIS. ROSS MAY STILL BE IN TEHRAN AND ABLE PROVIDE CLARIFICATION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 247216

MAW

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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